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THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Congresswoman Vucanovich:

300 Booth Street, Suite 3038

Federal Building

Reno, Nevada 89509

Honorable Barbara F. Vucanovich Member, House of Representatives

This is in reply to your letter of February 2, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent regarding the <u>Notice</u> of <u>Proposed Rule Making</u> (<u>Notice</u>) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This <u>Notice</u> proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the <u>Notice</u> reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u>, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the <u>Notice</u> that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituent is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the <u>Notice</u>, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u> are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Ralph A. Haller

Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures: Notice Order Discussion paper

Congressional

DUR OBC: 2-18-93

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BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH 2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2802

February 2, 1993

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Lou Sizemore
Office of Legislative Affairs, Room 808
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Sizemore:

I am writing you to request your assistance in a matter that has recently been brought to my attention.

One of my constituents, Peter A. Williams, has written me regarding his concerns about proposed rules under PR Docket 92-235. I would greatly appreciate your reviewing and addressing his concerns. I have enclosed a copy of the letter for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH Member of Congress

BFV:vbm Respond to Reno office. Enclosure 01-27-93

FCC 1919 M St. NW Washington, DC 20554

Re: PR Docket 92-235

Gentlemen:

I am very concerned about proposed rules under consideration by FCC under PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, it will drastically reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use. It will also increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for control of model airplanes.

The frequencies I am speaking of are in the 72-76 MHz band currently used for private land and mobile dispatch operations. At the present our frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we are able to share the band without either use interfering with the other. By creating more frequencies by splitting into narrower band-widths and rearranging the band plan, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to model aircraft radio control frequencies and cause interference to our radio control operations.

I am advised that of the 50 frequencies presently available for model radio control only 19 will remain if FCC adopts this new rule. This is unacceptable from a safety standpoint as The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) rules go to great lengths to protect bystanders and property. This congestion of frequencies will result in the "capture" or "glitching" of radio control frequencies resulting in out-of-control model operations terminating in a crash with personal injury and property damage a distinct possibility.

Be advised some of these models have 10ft. wingspans and weigh up to 30 lbs. and they are expensive to build. As an active member of AMA, I have pursued this hobby for many years. I currently own 4 model aircraft radio transmitters and 5 model aircraft representing an investment of over \$3,000. In my opinion it is inappropriate for FCC to improve the operating conditions of land mobile operators at the expense of hundreds of thousands of radio control modelers. We need the use of the presently assigned FULL COMPLIMENT of radio frequencies to assure a safe flying environment.

Sincerely MA Peter A. Williams

cc: Congresswoman Barbara F. Vucanovich

P.S. FYI The Deadline to Regard to FCC

on This NPFM is Feb 26, 1993.